

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. (Nov. 6th, 1891) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I have not written you for a long time, but I have been dreadfully remiss about all my letters. Time is most decidedly taking to himself wings and flying away, oh, so fast when I would fain hold him back and have yet a little longer space here.

It is so dear here. Can you understand how I cling to every tree, every shrub almost every blade of grass, even now that most of the autumn glory has gone.

We have none of us, had the good and satisfaction out of the place this fall that we did last year, as the children's long spell of whooping-cough continued with the uncertain weather has kept us all indoors. All us woman-kind I mean, while the interest of the laboratory has kept Alec confined there. I shall be glad when we get our house on the point for then Alec will have quite a long walk every day whether he goes after his sheep or to his laboratory. Miss True is working hard trying to get Alec to go on with his lectures, and finding a tremendous stock of patience necessary. They have not yet finished the third lecture, and there are eleven of them altogether I believe. I think my club is getting along very nicely and Elsie thinks that here is, so we are both very much pleased. Miss Kirwan says Elsie stayed awake some time last night concocting the letters she is to write to her club from Florence!

We have some very bright energetic people in our club and they have taken hold with an intelligence and interest that surprises me. We 2 have had three meetings, only two however being regular ones the first being occupied in the organization of the club. We

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take for our text books the monthly magazines and the daily papers. Here is our order of proceedings as well as I can remember.

Reading of minutes

“ “ author or magazine article

Remarks.

Music.

Reading Original paper or Question Box.

Remarks.

Abstract of magazine article.

Abstract “ “ “

Music.

Topics of the week.

Recitation.

Quotation.

Music.

Conversation.

Rather a long program you may think, but we desire variety and to make as many of our members work every day as possible. No paper is longer than 20 minutes and most of them are limited to 5. Taking one article in a magazine as our text we try from all other

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sources at our disposal to gather other information on the subject. The recitation and quotations are from or suggested by our reading. Any member is liable to be called on for a short quotation, so we all have to be prepared. I was tripped up in this way at the very first regular meeting. I inadvertently made use of a quotation in a paper I read and one of the ladies immediately asked me for author and place! I could give neither. 3 If you and Mr. Bell come up here next number I shall make Mr. Bell give us a course of readings! One of the readers the other day concluded her paper with the remark that Baddeck was becoming such a centre of Science Literature and Art, that all the great authors would sooner or later have to pay us a visit!

We expect to leave here on Monday the 9th and go straight through to Washington only stopping a few hours in Boston and in Philadelphia to see the doctor.

Would you and Mr. Bell like us to come and make you a little visit, or would it be too much trouble for you? Please don't hesitate to say so far I am sure that you would have us if you could.

With very much love to you and Mr. Bell and my cousins, Affectionately your daughter,  
Mabel.